
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2006/2007

October/November 2006

HXE 305 – MALAYSIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Duration: 3 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of FOUR pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer FOUR questions: TWO from Section A and TWO from Section B. Each question carries 100 marks. Do not repeat what has been exemplified and elaborated upon in another question.

Section A

1. "...women are usually the creatures of a male power-fantasy" (Said, 1978).

Discuss the above statement using examples from Che Husna Azhari's short story "Mariah."

2. How effective is the inclusion of historical narrative in Lloyd Fernando's *Scorpion Orchid* (1976)?

3. "There was this woman serving coffee in a coffee-house, watching me as I came up the queue with a look that's very common here and directed at foreigners, mostly non-whites. It makes you feel like an insect. Well, when it came to my turn she said, with a friendly smile, "Are you half-caste?" My nerves had been raw for many weeks and I flared. "What if I am." Her reply floored me. "It's nothing, love. I'm married to one."

What does the excerpt above reveal about the notion of hybridity in post-colonial Malaya in Lloyd Fernando's *Scorpion Orchid* (1976)?

Section B

4. Discuss how the poet uses domestic items and lived experiences as a strategy of subversion to illuminate the central theme of the following poem.

HOME

Home is
rice and saltfish
and green mango pickles

a bowl of hot soup
after being caught in a drizzle

Home is
laughter and toys
and comforting arms of mother

tears being brushed away
playground bruises kissed better

Home is
socks, shoes, schoolbags
and crispy shirts in naphthalene

flannel blankets and fluffy
pillows and warm pink dreams

Home is
a fortress against
fear, thunder and the bogeyman

a sanctuary from terror
night sirens and the policeman.

Home
is the place
this continent
of damned children
will never taste!

Cecil Rajendra (1994)

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5. Irony is one of the techniques used by Huzir Sulaiman in “Atomic Jaya” (1998) to create a satirical comedy. Discuss some of the ironic situations that can be found in the play and how they help you recognize or understand what are being satirized.
6. The theme that unites the three acts in Ramli Ibrahim's play *In The Name of Love* (1991) is love. Discuss the different ways the female characters in the three acts reconcile their loss with love.

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